

Washington State Patrol Media Release

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*****For Immediate Release*****

Date: May 11, 2006
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Motorist Cited for Brandishing a Toy Gun

On May 11, 2006, at approximately 7:37 am, Trooper Craig Sahlinger responded to a report of a blue Toyota Tercel brandishing a gun at another motorist on northbound I-5 in the area of SR-12 (Milepost 68). The Toyota was reported as slamming on its brakes a couple of different times as another car came up behind. It was reported that the driver of the Toyota then brandished a chrome gun at the other motorist.

A few minutes later Trooper Sahlinger found the Toyota and pulled it over northbound on I-5 at Milepost 73, just north of Napavine. The driver was identified by his Washington driver's license as Willie Lee Jason, a 42 year old resident of Winlock.

Mr. Jason at first denied any involvement in any road rage or to brandishing a gun. Trooper Sahlinger asked Mr. Jason if he had any guns in the car and he changed his story. Mr. Jason admitted to possessing his son's "play gun". Mr. Jason admitted to a truck was following him too close and indicated the driver was waving his arms trying to get him to pull over. Mr. Jason indicated that he removed the toy gun toy gun from the glove box, but didn't admit to brandishing it.

Trooper Sahlinger examined the toy gun identifying it as a plastic "Air-Soft" pistol with an orange tip. This toy shoots a soft projectile and is typically used by children for play.

A driver's check of Mr. Jason showed his Washington driver's license was suspended.

Trooper Sahlinger called the reporting party and got a statement of the incident.

Mr. Jason was cited and released for Driving While License Suspended in the 3rd Degree and Aiming and/or Displaying a Firearm.

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